



Washington State Senate
Republican Caucus

For Immediate Release
Jan. 30, 2006

For Interview Contact:
Sen. Don Benton (360) 786-7632

Benton's Medal of Valor legislation from 1999 to be bestowed on first ever recipients – two local heroes nominated by Benton

OLYMPIA...In 1999, legislation sponsored by Sen. Don Benton, R-Vancouver, was signed into law creating the Medal of Valor to honor life-saving acts by citizens. This year, the first recipients are Dennis Kinsey of Battle Ground and Travis Jackson of Vancouver.

Both men stopped at a car accident on Highway 500 on January 18, 2005, to render assistance. Together they were able to pull Raymond Perviski from his burning car and call 9-1-1. This action saved Perviski's life.

"The Medal of Valor, which will be presented to Dennis and Travis on February 20, recognizes their courage in a special way," Benton said. "Everyday citizens become extraordinary heroes when they act to save a life without regard for their own safety. We should honor them, and do so in a way their family for generations will know and understand their bravery."

Kinsey and Jackson received word of their selection last week from Secretary of State Sam Reed. The men were nominated by Benton and Rep. Richard Curtis, R-La Center.

-30-

*For more information contact Penny Drost at (360) 786-7522
or penny.drost@leg.wa.gov*